

Additionally, on final passage of H.R. 2087, legislation to remove restrictions from a parcel of land situated in the Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING WALTER ALCORN, 2011  
FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Walter Alcorn, an exceptional constituent, on his receipt of the 2011 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. Walter will receive this distinguished honor at the organization's 62nd Annual Awards Banquet on March 25, 2012. Walter has exhibited outstanding civic service and selfless volunteerism, and this honor is rightfully awarded.

Walter's recognition by the Fairfax County Citizens Association offers only a glimpse into his committed service to the residents of Northern Virginia. Most recently, Walter's involvement in Tyson's Corner helped a great deal in solving many of the complex planning issues.

As the Chair of the Planning Commission's Tysons Corner Committee, Walter led work to translate the vision and recommendations of the Tysons Corner Task Force into language appropriate for the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. For more than two years, Walter led the Committee and worked with all concerned stakeholders to develop consensus recommendations that were ultimately adopted by the Board of Supervisors in June 2010. In March of last year, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Planning Commission develop an all-encompassing method to address infrastructure financing, along with other Tysons-related implementation issues. Walter has diplomatically made sure that this has remained transparent throughout the entire process.

Walter's service goes back decades. He has served on the Fairfax County Planning Commission since 1997. He has chaired the Planning Commission's Tysons Corner Committee since 2008 and has served as its Vice Chairman since 1997. He was first by Board Chairman Kate Hanley, and reappointed 3 times on motions of Board Chairmen Gerry Connolly and Sharon Bulova. He also chaired the Planning Commission's Environment Committee from 1997 to 2006. Walter has been a Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner since December 1997.

Along with his service to the Fairfax County Planning Commission, he is an enthusiastic coach for Reston Little League, manager of the Reston Warriors 12U baseball team and serves on the steering committee of his Sunday School class at the United Christian Parish in Reston. When not volunteering, he is employed as the Vice President for Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability at the Consumer Electronics Association in Crystal City, where he commutes daily via the Fairfax Connector and Metro. Previously, he worked as an environmental consultant specializing in the development of a national system for recycling electronic equipment, co-

founded the 501(c)3 National Center for Electronics Recycling in 2005, and was a Deputy Division Manager in the Technology Research Group for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Prior to his private sector employment, Walter was a Policy Aide in the Providence District Supervisor's office.

Walter is a model of the best kind of civil servant. I'm proud to congratulate him on his well-deserved award, and give my sincere thanks for his unwavering service to Northern Virginia.

CONGRATULATING MILES  
SAFFRAN, RECIPIENT OF THE  
2012 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF  
COMMUNITY AWARD

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Miles Saffran for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Miles, age 15, of Winter Park, has been named one of the top honorees in Florida by The 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Miles is a sophomore at Trinity Preparatory School and has helped raise more than \$60,000 to fund three medical trips to Mexico where he has served as the surgical youth coordinator for cleft lip and palate repair for Florida Hospital's mission trips. While in Mexico, Miles was responsible for assisting surgeons, organizing medicine, cleaning masks, and comforting patients and their families.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Award was created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage youth volunteers in their contributions to society, to emphasize the value of volunteerism, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 17 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has involved more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

It is my pleasure to commend Miles for his energy and initiative in seeking to make his community and world a better place to live. His commitment and accomplishment is extraordinary in today's world and deserves recognition. His actions remind us that young Americans can play an important role in our communities.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize Miles Saffran's selflessness and enthusiasm for serving others and for making a difference. The kind of altruism evident in Miles's efforts represents our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. May his efforts inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

"STARS AND STRIPES: NO PROBLEMS WITH 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' REPEAL"

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, whenever a legislative body deals with measures to prohibit or lessen discrimination against any group, opponents who do not wish to affirm that they are prejudiced against that group often assert that there will be negative consequences if the antidiscrimination measure is adopted. Most recently, we heard dire predictions from many supporters of the policy of discriminating against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the military that allowing these patriotic Americans to serve their country openly would be terribly disruptive. Apparently, there were many who believed that young Americans who serve in the military shared their prejudice.

Despite their arguments, the repeal was voted by the Congress in 2010 and very efficiently put into place by Defense Secretary Panetta after full consultation with the Military Chiefs of Staff. It has now been about six months since the ban on honesty among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender military personnel was dropped. And, as in many other cases—for example our laws protecting people with disabilities, or our laws banning discrimination against women—the predictions of social chaos from opponents of fairness have proven to be baseless.

Stars and Stripes, the widely regarded newspaper that serves our military, and has a long record of independence and integrity, summed it up in an article on March 19th as follows: "Six months after the military ended the controversial 'don't ask, don't tell' law barring gays from serving openly, Pentagon officials and gay rights advocates say the policy change has largely been a non-issue, with few complaints and no major headaches resulting from the new rules."

It is true that there are some of those who were opposed to this end to a discriminatory policy who continue to argue that there would have been problems if the Pentagon had not somehow mysteriously suppressed it. The notion that there is any significant degree of dissatisfaction but there is no way that anyone has been able to voice it—even anonymously—is of course highly suspect. The fact is that it turns out that the young people in the military do not share the prejudices of some of their would-be defenders, and the notion that military effectiveness has in any way been damaged, or that we would see people leaving the military, have been shown to have no basis.

Mr. Speaker, because it is important to have this further example of the inaccuracy of the predictions that are made when we seek to ban discrimination against particular groups, and because this was such an important issue debated in this Congress, I ask that the article from Stars and Stripes be printed here.

[From the Stars and Stripes, Mar. 19, 2012]

(By Leo Shane III)

SIX MONTHS AFTER REPEAL, MILITARY SAYS  
DADT DIED QUIETLY

WASHINGTON.—Sgt. Pepe Johnson was surprised by the reaction he received when his fellow soldiers learned that he is gay.